

Ramírez de Ceballos. She attended Colegio América Elementary School in Nuevo Laredo before attending St. Augustine High School in Laredo, TX, where she was class valedictorian. She would soon earn an Associate of Arts Degree from Laredo Junior College and then a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and History from Texas A&I University-Kingsville. Years later, she would continue her studies at Laredo State University where she earned a Master of Science in Secondary Education and Spanish.

In 1969, Rosa joined the Laredo Independent School District, where she taught for 39 years. Over the course of her time at Laredo ISD, she was known as an outstanding teacher and an inspiring person. She was an individual who dedicated her time to ensuring that her students gained an enriching education while always pushing them to challenge themselves with new experiences. For example, she sponsored study abroad trips to Spain, hosted oral Spanish poetry and prose contests, and created a Mother's Day program of original poetry and prose compositions. She would also have her students present their poetry to dignitaries honored at the annual LULAC Senior International. In addition to her work at Laredo ISD, she also served as an Adjunct Spanish Professor at Texas A&M International University for several years. She was also a Hispanic Studies PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University-College Station, where she passed all oral and written exams.

Rosa is also a renowned artist. Her poetry has given a strong and distinct voice to those in the border community. She understands the unique experience of Laredoans and brings that familiarity to a larger audience. I appreciate her work and the guidance she has given to countless students. Her work in the field of education is both moving and a reminder of how many lives can be touched by just one individual.

For her work, she has received numerous awards, including: Laredo Morning Times Woman of the Month, Cigarroa High School Teacher of the Year and the Raíces Award, Webb County Heritage Foundation Traditions and Folklore Award, El Mañana Literary Award, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Laredo's Golden Apple Award, Laredo Chamber of Commerce Bell Award, University of Texas Excellence in Teaching Award, and Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year. She was also inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on this prestigious recognition and I wish her the best moving forward.

HONORING KARRIE PARDIECK

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to a dedicated public servant who has for two decades served the people of eastern Indiana with great care and devotion.

As she now retires with twenty years of service, I want to offer my wholehearted thanks to Karrie Pardieck for all that she has done for me, my predecessors and for Hoosiers across eastern Indiana.

Karrie Pardieck was first hired by my brother, Vice President MIKE PENCE, when he was elected to what was then the Second Congressional District of Indiana. As the Second became the Sixth, Karrie earned a reputation of putting Hoosier constituents first.

My staff knows that we have no higher priority than constituent services, and Karrie has been on the front lines of ensuring that Hoosiers were taken care of and their voices were being heard.

Undoubtedly Karrie has handled many thousands of cases in her area of expertise. In just the last two years alone, Karrie opened federal inquiries on behalf of more than 225 Sixth District Hoosiers. Time and again, I have heard from constituents who needed help with Social Security Retirement, Disability and Medicare. Many have reached out or sent letters saying that Karrie would always lead with a servant's heart, an eye for detail and a can-do attitude.

My immediate predecessor, Congressman Luke Messer, said upon the occasion of his retirement from this body stated that Karrie "made our office a better place to work, and she is a valuable member of our team."

For twenty years Karrie Pardieck has made this office better. For twenty years, she has been a valuable member of the Sixth District team.

As she now closes this chapter and departs from public service, I join my predecessors and the many lives she has touched as a Constituent Services Representative for Indiana's Sixth Congressional District in wishing Karrie Pardieck a joyous retirement.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to express my support of House Resolution 549, which I introduced along with my colleague, Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS, and is led in the Senate also in a bipartisan way by Senators JACKY ROSEN and MARCO RUBIO.

As the first woman to represent Puerto Rico in Congress, I take great pride in being a part of this initiative that seeks to eliminate barriers that prevent media diversity. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to pay it forward, and work to ensure that minorities are represented in every sector of society whether it is in elected office, in businesses, in the military or in the media.

This resolution is simple, Mr. Speaker. It sends a strong message that we in Congress are united in this effort to encourage media diversity that will benefit Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life stay informed and civically engaged.

Whether through traditional outlets such as television, radio or newspaper, or through new technologies and digital platforms, media plays a critical role in our daily lives, influencing our perspective on almost every issue. By having access to independent, diverse, and local media contributors, our communities can be

exposed to different viewpoints providing them opportunities to contribute to the crucial debates facing our country.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our nation is diversifying at a faster ratio than it was ever projected. Over the last decade, nearly 4 of 10 Americans identified with a race or ethnic group other than white. Yet, this is not proportionally reflected in media and communication occupations.

Fifty years ago, the Kerner Commission Report called for increased media diversity, citing that limited participation of diverse populations in media decision-making had negative economic and social cost for our society. And although some progress has been made, we can and we must do better.

Our nation is strengthened by diverse points of view, diverse talents, and a workforce that truly reflects our country's identity. We cannot wait fifty more years, we need to start now and promote an inclusive workforce, welcoming those who aspire to become journalists, correspondents, creators, directors, producers, programmers, distributors, behind the camera and on-air personalities.

This resolution empowers us with the ability to create a strategy, build coalitions, and work to remove the barriers to increase participation in this growing industry. We must also promote diversity so that more members of our communities can relate.

We have an opportunity here in Congress to lead the way, demonstrate our commitment to the American people that diverse representation in all aspects of American life are critical to a healthy, prosperous democracy.

Diversity is what makes this country rich. Our nation is comprised of people who represent a plethora of thoughts, heritage and upbringing that is not always represented in the media, making some of these groups invisible to others.

Media should be a reflection of the society they serve. Learning about other experiences, listening to different opinions, and getting to know other's backgrounds strengthens our nation and leads to inclusion.

REMEMBERING JEREMY DODD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 7th, I attended the funeral service of a dear friend and mentor. A complex, sensitive, intuitive observer of this human comedy we call life. Jeremy Dodd was a remarkable man. I include in the RECORD this brief introduction is his obituary written by his son, Owen, and a poem entitled, "The Dash."

In 1978, Jeremy and I worked down the hall from one another. I knew of him because his father was a United States Senator from Connecticut, who the Irish and Americans across the country had always taken great pride in his role in the Nuremberg Trials, and also his brother Chris, who at the time was the sitting member of Congress from the 2nd District and would go on to follow his father and become a United States Senator. Jeremy historically and culturally knew politics, he gained that knowledge from growing up in a family immersed in it. Beyond politics, he could conduct